

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
ONTARIO INSTITUTION  
FOR THE  
EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,  
BRANTFORD.

---

1874-5.

---



Toronto :  
PRINTED BY HUNTER, ROSE & CO., 25 WELLINGTON STREET WEST.  
1876.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
ONTARIO INSTITUTION  
FOR THE  
EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,  
BRANTFORD,  
*Ontario,*  
*Canada.*  

---

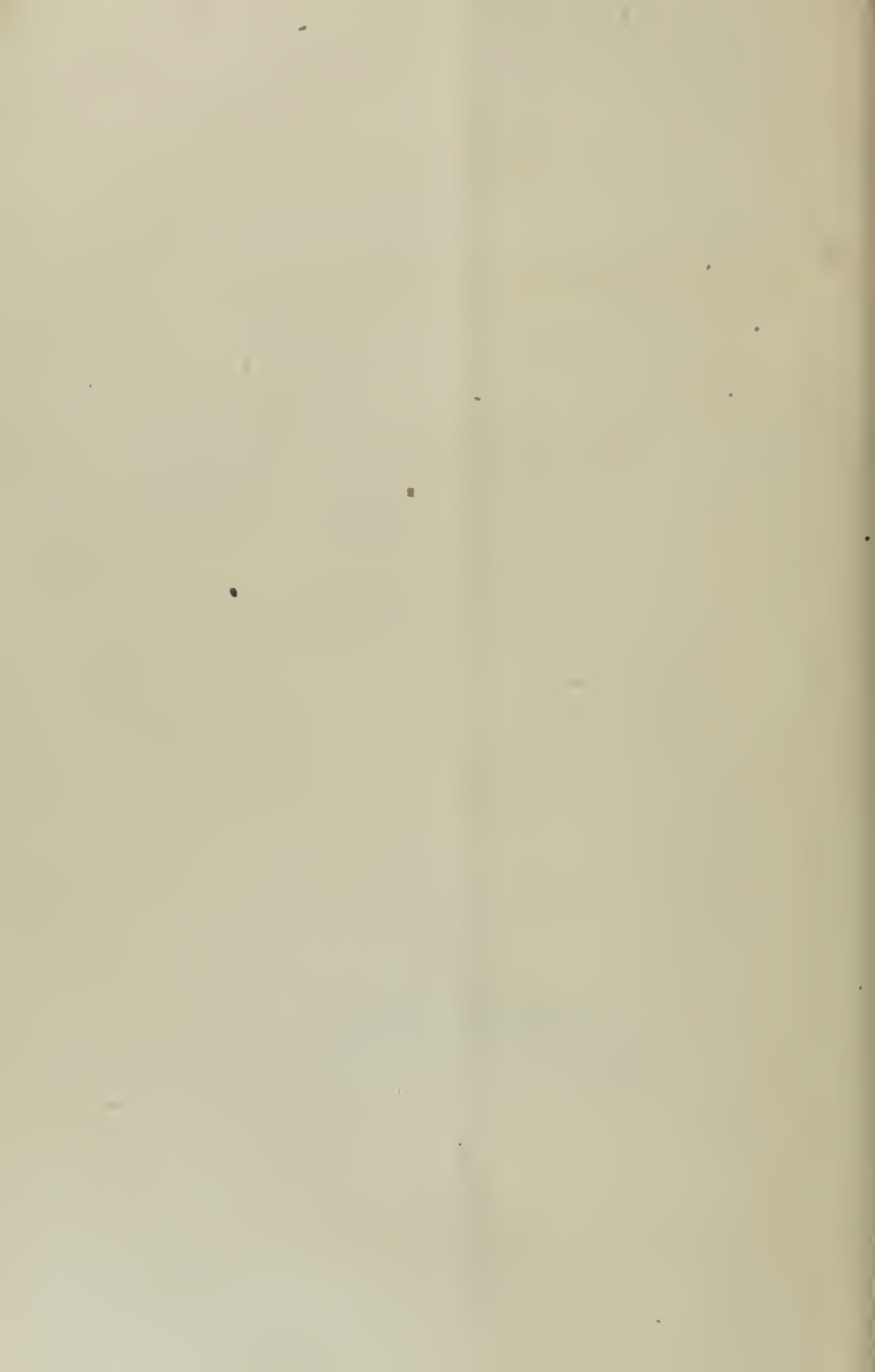
1874-5.

---

*Please exchange Report.*



Toronto:  
PRINTED BY HUNTER, ROSE & CO., 25 WELLINGTON STREET WEST.  
1876.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Ontario Institution for the Education of the Blind, BRANTFORD.

---

### INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

At the close of the last official year there were 101 pupils under instruction in this Institution, and during the entire session 112 were admitted. Of this number two were sent to the Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary for medical treatment, one was dismissed for misconduct, two died, four returned to their homes able to earn a livelihood, leaving 103 pupils in residence at the close of the fourth session, on the 30th June, 1875.

From the opening of the present (fifth) session on the 1st day of September, up to the close of the official year, 116 pupils had been received, or an increase of fifteen over the corresponding period of last year. These 116 pupils comprised 69 males and 47 females, 56 of the former being under, and 15 over 21 years of age, while 36 of the females were under, and 11 over 21 years. In addition to the pupils in residence the Principal had received advices from parents and Municipal authorities informing him that about twenty additional pupils would be sent forward within a month. The attendance this session will, therefore, very likely aggregate 135 and possibly 140 pupils, which is the utmost number the dormitory space of the Institution will accommodate.

Under these circumstances, two questions are presented to the Government for solution in connection with the education of the blind in this Province, viz.:—Is it best to proceed with the erection of another building in close proximity to the main structure, as was designed in the original plans, in order to give additional room for dormitory and other purposes; or will it be best to restrict the accommodation to its present extent for a few years longer, and adopt stricter rules in awarding admissions?

Since the opening of the Institution a few over-age pupils have always been admitted under the provisions of the Act, but at no time has the number of that class exceeded ten per cent. of the entire admissions, which is, perhaps, a lower proportion than will be found in any similar Institution on this continent. Then, again, a few pupils are received whose literary education is about as far advanced as there is any practical necessity for, and who are not desirous of obtaining such mechanical instruction as the Institution affords. So long as there is room for a few pupils judiciously selected from these two classes, I think it would be very unjust to refuse admission to them; but in the event of all the beds being needed for the pupils of the proper age and requirement, the number might be still further curtailed.

Considering that there is a strong desire on the part of some blind persons and their friends to look upon this Institution as an Asylum or Home, and not as an educational institution, I am inclined to think that it would be better not to increase the present accommodation until it is absolutely required for pupils under twenty-one years of age. I am the more inclined to recommend this course for the present as a considerable sum of money will require to be voted during the ensuing session of Parliament to make good certain deficiencies in the buildings, furniture, fixtures and grounds of the Institution, which are now causing very serious inconvenience in management. These deficiencies will hereafter be referred to in detail.

Reverting again to the operations of the Institution for the past year and the statistics connected therewith, the following summary will show the Counties and Cities of the Province from which the 116 pupils who were in the establishment on the 30th September were received, viz. :—

Brant .....	2	Ontario .....	3
Bruce .....	6	Perth .....	2
Durham .....	3	Peterborough.....	4
Dundas .....	3	Prince Edward .....	3
Elgin .....	1	Russell .....	2
Essex .....	1	Stormont .....	4
Frontenac .....	2	Simcoe.....	1
Grey .....	2	Victoria .....	1
Halton .....	1	Waterloo .....	3
Hastings .....	5	Wellington.....	7
Huron.....	5	Wentworth .....	4
Kent .....	3	Welland.....	1
Leeds .....	4	York .....	4
Lennox .....	1	Hamilton City .....	3
Lincoln .....	4	Kingston .....	3
Lanark .....	1	London .....	3
Middlesex .....	6	Ottawa .....	1
Norfolk .....	3	Toronto .....	7
Northumberland .....	5		
Oxford .....	2		
			116

The occupations, nationalities and religions of the parents of these 116 pupils are as follows :—

OCCUPATIONS.		NATIONALITIES.		RELIGIONS.	
Farmers .....	25	Canadian.....	43	Presbyterian.....	26
Coachman.....	1	English .....	28	Methodist.....	40
Sailor .....	1	Irish .....	24	Church of England.....	24
Labourers.....	20	French Canadian .....	1	Roman Catholic.....	12
Police Constables. ....	2	Scotch.....	15	Quaker.....	1
Coopers .....	3	French.....	1	Baptists.....	5
Hotel-keepers.....	2	German.....	3	Bible Christians.....	3
Teamsters .....	2	American.....	1	Lutheran.....	2
Cabinet maker.....	1			Dandite.....	2
Postmaster & merchant...	1			Tunker .....	1
Carpenters .....	9				
Wood turner.....	1				
Tailors.....	2				
Teacher.....	1				
Blacksmiths .....	3				
Grocers.....	3				
Pedlar .....	1				
Doctor .....	1				
Axe grinder.....	1				
Shoemaker.....	1				
Barrister .....	1				
Butcher.....	1				
Agent. ....	1				
Gardener .....	1				
Railroad employé.....	1				
Unknown .....	3				
Total .....	116		116		116

Of the 116 pupils received this Session up to the 30th September, 100 were admitted as free pupils upon the certificates of municipal authorities affirming the inability of the parents or guardians of such pupils to pay for board. Only seven are registered as paying pupils in respect of board; the remainder are returned as indigent orphans, who, under the By-laws, are entitled to free board, education and clothing. Some of the inmates are semi-orphans, or utterly destitute children, whose clothing the Institution may have to assist in furnishing. Among the paying pupils are included two or more of one family, in which case it has been the practice to exact the payment of only one fee.

Considering the very insignificant amount that is derived from paying pupils, and the very great objection that exists on the part of many parents to ask or receive from the municipal authorities a certificate of indigency, I would recommend that the Principal be authorized to award admission to all blind persons of the proper age and requirement, without such municipal certificate being exacted. Education and board to be free, except to such pupils whose parents or guardians elect to pay for the same.

Practically the Institution and its advantages are now free, as only board was paid (during the past Session for seven out of a total of 112 pupils. Under these circumstances I can see no good reason for requiring certain parents to obtain certificates of indigency from municipal authorities, particularly when such a practice gives cause of offence to many poor but sensitive parents.

Since the opening of the Institution on the 1st of May, 1872, up to the close of the present official year, 156 blind persons have entered, of whom 93 were males and 63 females. The counties and cities in the Province from which these pupils were received into the Institution are as follows, viz. :

Brant .....	5	Perth.....	4
Bruce .....	6	Peterborough.....	4
Durham .....	4	Prince Edward.....	3
Dundas .....	3	Russell .....	2
Elgin.....	2	Stormont.....	4
Essex.....	1	Sincoe.....	2
Frontenac.....	3	Victoria .....	2
Grey.....	4	Waterloo .....	6
Halton .....	2	Wellington.....	9
Hastings .....	6	Wentworth .....	4
Huron .....	6	Welland.....	1
Kent.....	3	York .....	7
Leeds.....	4	Unkuown .....	1
Lennox .....	1		
Lincoln .....	6	CITIES.	
Lanark .....	1	Hamilton .....	4
Lambton .....	1	Kingston .....	3
Middlesex .....	10	London .....	3
Norfolk .....	5	Ottawa .....	2
Northumberland .....	5	Toronto.....	10
Oxford .....	2		
Ontario .....	5	Total.....	156

Of the 116 pupils under instruction in the Institution on the 30th September last, nine were admitted during the first session, and have been in attendance all subsequent sessions ; 27 were admitted during the second session, 21 during the third, and 32 during the fourth. During the present (fifth) session 27 pupils have been admitted for the first time.

### INSPECTION VISITS.

Four statutory inspections were made of the Institution during the present official year, besides other visits connected with its affairs.

At my inspection on the 17th and 18th of March, the establishment in its various parts, with a few exceptions, was found in a very commendable state of order and cleanliness. The exceptions were the girls' dormitory and the premises back of the kitchen, the



former being untidy in appearance, and the latter disfigured by refuse matter. As the staff of servants was sufficiently large at that time to enable all domestic work to be properly and promptly performed, the matron was instructed to see that it was done. The beds and bedding were very comfortable, and in some cases the beds were neatly made up, although the defective description of bedstead in use will not admit of as much tidiness as could be desired. Allowing pupils to go into the dormitories during the day is another cause of untidiness. The replacing of the present bedsteads with those of a neater pattern, and the adoption of uniformity in all articles of bedding, will be carried out as soon as possible.

The provision of proper sitting, study, and play rooms for the pupils is necessary in order to prevent the use of the dormitories during the day. The use of a base burner in the boys' dormitory became necessary in order to increase the temperature in that room, which, owing to the large amount of glass surface and the high winds that prevail in winter, was exceedingly cold.

The Principal was instructed to make some repairs to the building and additions to the furniture that were much required.

On this occasion 106 pupils were in residence—64 males and 42 females. The names of two additional pupils were on the register, but they were away on leave of absence. The health of the house was reported by the physician to be good, and, with the exception of colds, no cases of sickness existed. I was present when various meals were served, when the food was sufficient and good. A dietary list had been adopted, subject to alteration in season, which appears to be the best plan, as it removes all cause of dissatisfaction. The appearance of the pupils in respect to clothing was generally good, although, owing to the neglect of parents to send a sufficient change, there were a few exceptions.

The various classes were visited while instruction was going on. The Principal reported that all the teachers were performing their duties in a satisfactory manner, and my examination fully confirmed the report. It having been reported that knitting would be a good employment for some pupils, an order was given for the manufacture of 25 dozen woollen socks for the Central Prison—a work that will be continued in the future. The music classes comprised 28 pupils in piano and organ lessons, 17 in the band and 89 under vocal instruction. The industrial class had received during the session a considerable accession to its number, although instruction is still confined to willow manufactures; and in the cases of at least twelve pupils the greatest advancement was apparent. In order to encourage industry and good behaviour, the system has been adopted of giving the pupils who can make good saleable wares a share of the sales, to the extent of ten per cent.

Not only has this system encouraged good behaviour, and industry; but it has tended to develop a spirit of independence in the blind which it is most desirable to stimulate and encourage.

A re-arrangement of the duties of certain of the officials was decided upon at this visit, and instructions in respect to the changes were recorded for their guidance and information. The question of supplying pupils with suitable reading matter after they leave the Institution, being worthy of consideration, was brought to the notice of Government. It is clear that this important work can be better conducted and regulated by the Principal of this Institution than any one else. It is recommended that a small grant be annually appropriated by Parliament, which with additional aid from the public will enable a permanent circulating library to be established for the blind of the Province.

At my inspection of the Institution on the 2nd and 3rd June, there were 105 pupils in residence. The name of another appeared on the register, who had been sent to the Toronto General Hospital for treatment. The attention of the Principal was called to the cases of a few pupils who could not be benefited by longer stay in the Institution, and he was directed to notify their friends that admission could not be again awarded. Arrangements were made to terminate the fourth session on Monday, the 28th June, instead of Wednesday, the 30th, as the by-laws required, owing to the inconvenience and risk that would attend the transfer of blind persons to their homes on Dominion Day, when the various railways would be crowded with passengers. I regret to report that the terms of passage granted by Railway managers were not as liberal as on the previous year.

The Principal was instructed to reduce the staff of servants to the lowest number, and all resident teachers were informed that they would not be expected to remain in the



Institution during the vacation, in order that the domestic expenses might be reduced to a minimum during the two months' cessation of work.

The Institution was found in very good order on this occasion.

On the occasion of my inspection on the 21st and 22nd September, I found 110 pupils under instruction—63 males and 47 females. The various classes were visited while under instruction, and it was most gratifying to observe, the progress that many of the pupils had made, indicating zeal and efficiency on the part of the teaching staff, and most commendable application on the part of the pupils. About ninety per cent. of the pupils were being taught writing, over half of whom could then write letters to their families and friends. Instruction in bead-work, crochet and knitting is given by the senior teacher, Miss Tyrell, one hour every day, in some of which branches great aptitude is shown. In the willow department the number under instruction was not so large as usual, as a considerable number of the old pupils had not returned, but as the session advanced, new pupils would be introduced to that department. A considerable quantity of inferior goods, which must accumulate in such a shop, were found in stock, which the Principal was instructed to sell by auction.

The farm and garden have for the first time yielded a good return this season. The crop of potatoes, carrots, turnips and other roots will be sufficient for the requirements of the Institution, and it is expected that the cost of feed for the farm and stable stock will be considerably reduced.

There are several structural defects and other deficiencies in the buildings, furniture and grounds of the Institution, which require to be remedied.

The outside closets, which are constructed on the ordinary vault principle, are now quite unsuited to and insufficient for the needs of the Institution. As there are neither drains nor water to carry off the sewage, it is evident the continuance of the system will soon result in a nuisance to the Institution, as they are now to the immediate neighbourhood. It is recommended, therefore, that proper frost-proof closets be constructed, with drain and water connections to the same. In order to obtain a sufficient supply of water for this purpose, the tanks will require to be enlarged by adding another rim of boiler plate to each tank, by which means capacity will be obtained for an additional supply of 5,000 gallons. The enlargement of the water tanks and additional hose are also called for in order to have more effective fire protection than is at present furnished. The want of washing and mangling machinery necessitates washing and ironing to be kept up during the entire week, in order that *all* the work may be done. It is recommended that a washing machine and mangle be procured, together with a small boiler and engine to provide the requisite motive power for turning the same, which will also provide power for a lathe for the engineer, which is much wanted.

The cooking appliances are quite inadequate for so large an Institution, and a range and hot-water connections must now be provided, in order that the work of the culinary department may be properly and promptly performed.

At present a portion of the coal-shed is partitioned off for an ice-house, necessitating the exposure of a considerable portion of the year's supply of coal to the weather without cover. It is recommended that an ice-house and a root cellar be constructed.

The carriage and market waggon and some other articles of stable furnishing are worn out and must be renewed. An appropriation will also have to be asked to purchase many things that are wanted in the way of apparatus and appliances, books, etc., as well as to replace worn-out bedsteads, benches, and other articles of furniture and furnishing.

It is also recommended that a sum of money be appropriated for the improvement and ornamentation of the Institution grounds and the construction of a broad sidewalk from the building to the front gate. These grounds, owing to the variety of surface, and their elevated position above the Town of Brantford, are susceptible of much adornment for a very reasonable amount. With a view to this, a plan was prepared by a landscape gardener, which, for want of funds, could not be carried out. If the ground-work of this plan, in respect to walks, trees and shrubs, is commenced by a capital appropriation of from \$1,500 to \$2,000, it can be completed and kept up by a small annual appropriation from maintenance funds, which course I would respectfully recommend for adoption.

Considerable trouble is experienced in the Institution in obtaining and retaining efficient servants, attributable, the Principal reports, to the rate of wages which, he

alleges, is not equal to the remuneration that is paid in private houses. It is recommended that such an increase of wages be given as will remedy this serious hindrance to efficient domestic management. It is now absolutely necessary that a night watchman be added to the staff of the Institution.

The following summary shows the amount that will be required on capital account to remedy the structural defects and other deficiencies above commented upon, viz. :—

Water closets and sewers .....	\$900 00
Increased reservoirs, water supply .....	525 00
Washing machine, laundry appliances, engine and fittings .....	1250 00
Range and fittings .....	325 00
Iron bedsteads and bedding for renewals.....	350 00
Root house, ice house, porches, storm sashes, weigh scales, &c. ....	650 00
Market waggon, carriage, &c. ....	400 00
250 feet rubber hose, and two fire extinguishers .....	250 00
Books, musical instruments, apparatus and appliances .....	1000 00
Ornamentation of grounds, road and sidewalk con- struction .....	1500 00
Extraordinary repairs .....	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$7350 00

Annexed to the Report will be found a detailed statement of the expenditure incurred in the maintenance of the Institution for the official year ending 13th September, amounting to \$23,061 21. The estimates of expenditure for the year 1876 is also appended, which have been framed with as much regard to economy as the necessities of efficient management will permit.

I regret having to report the death of Mr. T. M. Brown, senior male teacher in the literary department of this Institution. Mr. Brown was most eminently fitted by disposition and training to be a teacher of the blind, and, from the opening of the Institution, until he was prostrated by his fatal illness, he performed his duties in the most zealous and faithful manner. Under the superintendence of Mr. Principal Hunter, the affairs of this Institution are being most efficiently conducted in every department. The officers and teachers are most favourably reported by the Principal as displaying energy and zeal in the performance of their respective duties.

---

STATEMENT of the Expenditure of the Institution for Education of the Blind, Brantford, for the year ending 30th September, 1875.

	\$	cts.	\$	cts.
<i>Medical Department :</i>				
Medicines, medical comforts and appliances .....	74	51		
			74	51
<i>Household Expenses (Food) :</i>				
Butchers' meat .....	1786	41		
Fowls .....	80	18		
Fish .....	213	78		
			2080	37
Flour, bread and biscuits .....	991	96		
			991	96
Butter .....	745	38		
			745	38
<i>Carried forward</i> .....			\$3,892	22

<i>Brought forward</i> .....		\$3,892 22
<i>General Groceries, viz. :</i>		
Barley, rice, peas and meal .....	\$147 12	
Tea .....	130 78	
Coffee .....	191 30	
Cheese .....	76 92	
Eggs.....	70 41	
Fruit (dried) .....	77 94	
Salt, pepper, mustard, vinegar and pickles .....	27 51	
Syrup and sugar.....	670 54	
Unenumerated .....	146 53	
	<hr/>	1539 05
Fruit and vegetables .....	245 77	
	<hr/>	245 77
<i>Bedding and Clothing :</i>		
Bedding .....	139 66	
Clothing for orphans .....	77 94	
Shoes for orphans .....	9 74	
	<hr/>	277 34
<i>Fuel :</i>		
Coal.....	1768 25	
Wood .....	548 62	
	<hr/>	2316 87
<i>Light :</i>		
Gas .....	822 45	
Oil, candles and matches .....	2 80	
	<hr/>	825 25
<i>Laundry, Soap and Cleaning :</i>		
Brushes, brooms and mops .....	25 67	
Bathbricks, blacklead and blacking .....	2 60	
Cleaning .....	4 28	
Soap .....	184 21	
Laundry .....	44 80	
	<hr/>	261 56
<i>Books and Apparatus :</i>		
Appliances .....	94 27	
Maps and music .....	27 17	
Library .....	291 55	
Writing cards.....	10 60	
School furniture.....	92 67	
	<hr/>	516 25
<i>Printing, Postages, Stationery, etc. :</i>		
Advertising and Printing .....	145 68	
Postages, telegraphs and express .....	196 33	
Stationery .....	104 51	
	<hr/>	446 52
<i>Furniture and Furnishing :</i>		
Furniture, renewal and repairs .....	116 87	
Iron and tinware, &c.....	65 41	
Crockery and glassware.....	47 05	
	<hr/>	259 33
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Carried forward</i> .....		\$10,530 16

<i>Brought forward</i> .....		\$10,530 16
<i>Farm :</i>		
Seeds and plants .....	\$112 03	
Feed and fodder.....	686 80	
Manure .....	56 47	
Farm labour, stock and implements, including repairs ...	155 66	
		\$1010 96
<i>Repairs :</i>		
Repairs, ordinary, to buildings, &c. ....	351 44	
Hardware, &c. ....	93 87	
Paint and oils.....	6 45	
		451 76
<i>Miscellaneous :</i>		
Ice ..	3 50	
Officers' travelling expenses .....	401 78	
Freight and duties .....	42 13	
Amusements .....	4 50	
Workshops .....		
Incidentals .....	63 49	
		515 40
<i>Salaries and wages</i> .....		10,552 93
		\$23,061 21

ESTIMATE of Expenditure of Institution for the Blind for the year 1876, for 140<sup>9</sup> pupils.

Medicine, medical comforts, &c.....	\$ 75 00	
Butchers' meat, fish and fowl .....	2500 00	
Flour .....	1150 00	
Butter .....	800 00	
General groceries.....	1800 00	
Fruit and vegetables .....	250 00	
Bedding, clothing and shoes .....	400 00	
Fuel .....	2500 00	
Gas, oil, &c. ....	800 00	
Laundry, soap and cleaning ..	300 00	
Furniture and furnishings .....	400 00	
Farm, feed and fodder.....	600 00	
Repairs and alterations .....	400 00	
Advertising, printing, stationery, postage.....	450 00	
Books, apparatus and appliances ..	400 00	
Unenumerated .....	550 00	
		13,375 00
<i>Salaries and wages :</i>		
No. of Officers and Employees.		
Principal .....	1 .....	\$1600 00
Physician .....	1 .....	300 00
Bursar .....	1 .....	800 00
Housekeeper .....	1 .....	300 00
Teachers .....	6 .....	3500 00
Trade Instructor ..	1 .....	1000 00
Visitors' Attendant .....	1 .....	120 00
<i>Carried forward</i> .....	12 .....	\$7,620 00
		\$13,375 00

<i>Brought forward</i> .....		12			
Engineer .....	1		\$7,620 00	\$13,375 00	
Fireman .....	1		600 00		
Gardener.....	1		360 00		
Teamster.....	1		400 00		
Porter .....	1		240 00		
Cook and Baker ...	1		216 00		
Kitchen and dining-room maids ...	2		400 00		
Laundress .....	6		612 00		
Laundress' assistants .....	1		144 00		
Boys' attendant .....	2		228 00		
Nurses .....	1		192 00		
Housemaids .....	2		240 00		
Night watchman .....	2		192 00		
Night watchman .....	1		250 00		
Temporary assistance.....	1		100 00		
		35		11,794 00	
				\$25,169 00	

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

J. W. LANGMUIR, Esq.,

*Inspector of Ontario Public Institutions, Toronto.*

SIR,—I have the honour to present, for the official year ending September 30th, 1875, the Principal's Report of the Ontario Institution for the Blind.

The year just past has been in this Institution one of great activity, and I trust it will be found to have been also a year of substantial progress. The number of pupils has increased so rapidly that the Institution, from being in 1872 the most insignificant in America, has become in 1875 one of the very foremost in the magnitude of its operations. In 1872, the Institution passed through its first session with *eleven* pupils; before the opening of the present session, the number of applications for admission (or for re-admission) exceeded 140, and the actual attendance during the present session cannot fall much below this number. It is very encouraging to find the afflicted class, for whom this Institution was established, so appreciative of the education offered by the Legislature; and to the Legislature it may well become matter for congratulation that this Province is now taking the lead, not only in those general educational establishments whose national importance is plain to all except barbarians, but also in those special Institutions which are so characteristic a feature of advanced civilization. In this Province, the education of the Blind was approached with considerable hesitation and timidity. For a quarter of a century after the Boston Institution had led the way on this continent, and for more than fifty years after the instruction of the Blind had been successfully launched at Liverpool, Edinburgh, Bristol and London, Canada continued a passive spectator. In 1854, the Estimates of the Canadian Parliament provided a sum of \$80,000 for the erection of an Institution for the joint training of Deaf-mutes and the Blind, but no effect was given to this legislative provision, and for eighteen years longer the sightless children of our Province were permitted to grow up in intellectual as well as physical darkness. These wronged and afflicted children constitute the "over-age" candidates now constantly seeking admission, but of them, few, alas! are found in their adult years capable of instruction. It was only in 1872 that the Ontario Institution for the Blind actually commenced its operations. The appliances and accommodation were based on the best statistics then procurable, though we now know these data to have been illusory. Had the estimated requirements of the youthful Blind of Ontario been based on 200 as the probable number of inmates, that basis would have furnished a much safer approximation than 100, the number actually adopted. In this uncertainty as to the number requiring to be accommodated, many of the Institution appliances were necessarily of a provisional and tentative character. This remark applies in some measure to the educational outfit, but still more forcibly to the appliances in the Engineer's Department, and to those in the domestic service. The Institution is now no longer in the experimental stage; under proper administration its future is assured; and it is to be hoped the Legislature will provide that more liberal endowment which is quite indispensable, in order to equip the Institution for the great work now opening out before it. To compare, in respect of expenditure, one special Institution with another special Institution of a different class, is entirely fallacious, as the results in the two cases flow from entirely different agencies, and have nothing in common. Such a form of comparison is especially unfair to an Institution occupied by the Blind, who are, in a physical sense, by far the most helpless and dependent class assembled in any of our Public Institutions, and who constantly require for their safety and comfort a relatively much larger staff of servants than any class of seeing persons would need. In the case of our Institution, the only just comparison would be one instituted with *similar* Institutions in the United States. The administration of all the Public Charities



in this Province is well known to be conducted on a scale of economy not approached by any other country. The Institution for the Blind is no exception to the general rule. After more than forty years' experience with Institutions for the Blind, various Legislative bodies in the United States have fixed the minimum allowance per pupil chargeable to outlying counties sending their blind residents to an Institution at \$300 per session, and in all the large Institutions the actual cost of a pupil's maintenance greatly exceeds this allowance, the difference being made up by State appropriations, bequests, interest on investments, &c.

In the Ontario Institution, for the year ending the 30th September, 1875, the actual cost of pupils (including all items of expenditure except those on capital account) slightly exceeded \$200 per head. It may well be questioned whether, in this Province, the line has not been passed that divides economy from parsimony, and whether the administration of our Public Institutions has not been needlessly embarrassed by insufficient appropriations. In the case of the Institution placed under my charge, this is not matter of conjecture, but of positive experience. Had ampler means been at my disposal, such pecuniary aid would have been readily translated into the improved health, the increased comfort, and the more systematic training of the Blind of Ontario. It would be difficult to indicate a more worthy investment of public money than one which would yield such beneficent results. To the extent of the funds under your control, Sir, everything was done that could possibly have been expected, and far more was accomplished than would have been possible to any one less practised than yourself in the management of Public Institutions. But what can either Inspector or Principal avail, where the appropriation is manifestly inadequate for the work demanded?

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S OPERATIONS.

### LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

In my last Annual Report I stated that it was found necessary to remodel the whole programme of study, in order to secure the proper attention for reading, writing and arithmetic, which with the blind, as with the seeing, form the three great instruments of knowledge.

*Reading.*—Literature intended for the perusal of the Blind is always printed in relief, but various systems of type have found favour in different Institutions. On this continent, however, the prevailing systems are the line type (upper case, modified lower case, or a combination of both) and the point-print. In some Institutions, as in our own, the library contains a representation of Dr. Moon's publications, which are printed in easily learned characters, and can be perused without class instruction. But for purposes of class-drill, reading is practically confined with us to the two systems above specified. The *line-type* requires for fluent reading fine tactile sensibility, which is often very deficient in our older pupils, and in the younger pupils where the previous life has been one of bardship. Success in this department of instruction requires long-continued and extreme patience on the part of the teacher; but the extensive field of English literature now opened up to the Blind student in this type, amply repays him for all his toil. During the year just ended, 54 of our pupils have for the first time in their lives received instruction in reading, and very many of them are making most satisfactory progress. Our supply of books is now chiefly drawn from the catalogues of the American Printing House for the Blind (Louisville, Ky.), and Mr. N. B. Kneass (Philadelphia), the purchases being kindly made in our behalf by the Educational Depository, Toronto. During a recent visit to the leading American Institutions in the New England and Middle States, I found among Superintendents a general disposition to retire from the work of publishing books for the Blind. Relief printing is very tedious and expensive; the quality of the product is apt to fall below the standard required for legibility; and a finely executed "print" is not unfrequently ruined by subsequent compression in the hands of an unskilful binder or packer. From every other Institution library, equally with our own, a considerable number of volumes are annually set aside as "worn-out," though none but a practised eye could detect the slight flattening that renders these volumes illegible to the Blind, and of course useless for any other service. This rapid deterioration, under even gentle pressure,



must always make embossed books expensive, and their publication hazardous. It was, therefore, with more regret than surprise I found that even Dr. Howe's famous printing room at the Perkins Institution, Boston, had become still. Through Dr. Howe's publishing enterprise the New Testament became for the first time, in 1836, an unsealed book to the Blind, and there succeeded a series of standard works which may be regarded as the Aldine classics of our Institution literature. We still resort to the Perkins Institution for certain of our books and appliances, but some of its most extensive publications have passed out of type, and are no longer procurable. Fortunately, at this juncture, the American Printing House for the Blind announces an important advance in stereotyping, which will recover for the use of the Blind, embossed publications that are now out of print. It is further announced that "The Lady of the Lake," for some time out of print, is now in process of reprinting by this method, and any book that has been well printed can be printed again at a small expense.

Next in importance to the reading of the "line-type" is the reading of the tangible characters designated "point-print," and consisting of raised dots in various combinations. Two systems of point-print have disputed the field. First, there is the system invented by M. Charles Barbier, and, with modifications, introduced in 1852 by M. Louis Braille into the Paris Institution, of which he had formerly been a pupil. The letters of this system are generally of a depth equal to the space occupied by three dots. Then we have the New York Institution system, as arranged by the Superintendent, Mr. William Wait, and announced in his Report for the year 1871. In this alphabet the points are vertically never more than two deep. Both systems have had their warm advocates, and the literature of the controversy is somewhat extensive. It is now generally conceded that Mr. Wait's ingenious alphabet possesses the following points of superiority: (1.) The letters of most frequent occurrence are represented by the fewest points; (2.) In consequence of the points being only two deep, the reader's finger requires for their recognition a simple horizontal movement instead of a horizontal and a vertical movement; (3.) The area required for the expression of a given quantity of "copy" is materially less than in the Braille system. Though the latter is still in use at Boston, and I believe a few other institutions, yet the contest of these rival systems was, so far as this continent is concerned, virtually decided at the Convention of American Instructors of the Blind, held at Indianapolis in August, 1871, when it was unanimously resolved, "That the New York horizontal point alphabet, as arranged by Mr. Wait, should be taught in all Institutions for the Education of the Blind." To facilitate the introduction of his system, Mr. Wait has issued from the press of his own Institution a series of easy graduated lessons, which I have adopted for our point-primer, as being found admirably suited to class instruction. For more advanced pupils I have introduced the new point-letter publications of the American Printing House, which consist of short stories by Hawthorne, Whittier and others. The American Bible Society has given timely assistance to the point-print movement by issuing in this new dress the Gospel according to St. John at a price (\$2) which barely covers the expenses of publication. During the past year forty-five of our pupils entered on the study of point-print, and some can already read it with fluency. Many blind persons, who, from deficient sensitiveness of the fingers, altogether fail to read the ordinary (or line) type, are found to recognize with readiness punctured letters which stand out in bolder relief and in more characteristic forms. Fully appreciating the difficulties of the line type, the American Printing House proposes to modify the outlines of certain letters now frequently confounded by the Blind, for example *e* and *s*, *f* and *l*, *h* and *n*; more individuality is likewise to be given to the letters *a*, *o*, *d*; *r*, *v*; *m*, *w*, *x*, *z*. Printed sheets embracing these new typographical forms have been submitted to our pupils, and the proposed changes are found greatly to lessen the labour of reading. Notwithstanding, however, all possible improvements in the ordinary type, the point alphabet has so many advantages as a medium of writing, as well as of reading, that I have assigned to it a very important place in the revised programme of Institution studies.

*Writing.*—During the year just ended, no less than fifty-eight pupils have received their first instruction in writing; and of these, twenty-eight have already acquired a fair hand. Pupils are encouraged to practise themselves in Correspondence and English Composition. One letter monthly is written to each pupil's friends, the Institution supplying the writing materials and paying the postage, and the pupils are required, as soon as possible, to conduct their own share of this correspondence. To the ordinary writing card, we have, during the past

year added a new appliance, devised by our late excellent officer, Mr. T. M. Brown. It consists of an oblong board, having a raised frame formed by batons secured on its two longer sides. In each baton at the middle are cut a pair of slots, and through each opposite pair of slots, a slight strap of ebonite is passed and allowed to project beyond the batons, these projecting ends being then connected together by india rubber bands. To use this writing board, a sheet of letter-paper having been passed between the raised sides and beneath the ebonite straps, the writer's pencil travels in the interval between the straps, the rubler bands at the ends of the latter allowing sufficient play for the formation of the long loop letters of ordinary hand-writing. After the completion of each line, the paper is slightly advanced and the writing resumed. Many of our pupils greatly prefer this ingenious appliance to the ordinary grooved card-board, which has the disadvantages of soon flattening under compression, and of permitting the paper to be displaced. Though the Blind write the ordinary hand in such a manner as to be easily legible to the seeing, yet such writing is quite illegible to the writers themselves, and it not unfrequently happens that in the letters of the Blind, as in the palimpsest manuscripts, several strata of writing are superimposed one upon the other, thus leaving the subject matter open to considerable variance of opinion. Here again the newly adopted point characters come to our aid as a medium of communication, legible not only to the seeing correspondent but to the blind writer himself. Twenty-three pupils (11 girls and 12 boys) have, during the past year commenced point-writing, and under Miss Tyrrell's very able instruction, several have acquired considerable mastery of this important art. The point slate used in this Institution was constructed expressly for our own classes from a model devised by Mr. B. F. Cheesbro, our Professor of Music.

*Arithmetic.*—The proficiency attained during the past year in Mental Arithmetic was frequently the object of remark, by not only casual visitors but professional teachers. In the analysis of complicated problems, the pupils under Mr. Brown's direction acquired admirable readiness and accuracy. Just before his lamented death his pupils had begun to apply the point characters to arithmetical calculations, and to the keeping of accounts—a great desideratum to the Blind, who are usually dependent on the eyes and the honesty of an amanuensis for a correct statement of their affairs. As soon as practicable this important branch of study will be resumed.

I have thus rather minutely particularized the new appliances devised, and the advances made in the three fundamental subjects of reading, writing and arithmetic, because of the important place they occupy in our revised programme, and because a very large number of our pupils have, during the past year, acquired their first mastery of these invaluable instruments. The burden of instruction has fallen chiefly on Miss Tyrrell and Mr. Brown. It would be impossible for me to characterize in too high terms the fidelity and the patience exhibited by these excellent officers in the performance of their duties. In reading, writing, and indeed in every other subject, where the want of sight is supplied by the sense of touch, instruction becomes very laborious, for the teacher must make a separate appeal to the tactile sensibility of each pupil, and teaching being thus directed to individuals rather than to the class, the error of one pupil cannot be made to yield instruction to another. This is an important consideration in determining the number of blind pupils that can be advantageously assigned to a teacher. In this Institution the average number of scholars to each literary teacher is very high: indeed we have reached the maximum that is consistent with efficient teaching; and any further increase of pupils will necessitate the employment of at least one additional resident teacher.

The competition for the medals so kindly offered by His Excellency the Governor-General has this year resulted in the award of the silver medal to Mr. William Raymond; and of the bronze medal to Miss Maria Collins.

I have endeavoured to arouse, among the senior pupils, an intelligent interest in passing events, by having read to them, for an hour each evening, various public journals representing all shades of political opinion. These evening readings have been occasionally varied by addresses. Miss Macpherson favoured us with a most interesting narration of her philanthropic labours; Mrs. Messmore (recently returned from India) entertained us with a vivacious description of Indian scenery and customs. During the late orthographical revival, some of our Blind youth sallied forth to do battle against all bad spellers, and, at a challenge tournament held before the Brantford public, our boys actually spelled down all their adversaries but one, thus bearing away the second prize. Debating

classes have been organized, and very good argumentative ability has been developed. My thanks are especially due to the Young Men's Christian Association of Brantford, for their very generous admission of our senior pupils to the lectures of such distinguished speakers as Mr. J. B. Gough, the Hon. Frederick Douglass, &c. The combined operation of all these educational influences can hardly fail to diffuse among the youthful Blind of Ontario a healthful degree of mental activity.

#### DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC.

In this department the regular teaching staff remains as at the last Report. In consequence, however, of the increased pressure of pupils it has been found necessary to obtain the assistance of some of the older boys and girls. The present equipment of pianos is found insufficient to meet the demand for instrumental tuition. At least one additional piano will be required. I trust that it is the intention, at no distant date, to complete the outfit of our Music Hall with that most essential, if somewhat costly appliance, a large pipe-organ. All the leading American Institutions for the Blind are provided with magnificent instruments for the study of sacred music, the value of some of these great organs being estimated as high as \$12,000. Most of our own country towns have one or more of their churches furnished with a good organ; and what a small country congregation can provide by the voluntary contributions of its members, a great Province like Ontario, with an overflowing exchequer, can surely provide for the Institution occupied by its afflicted blind children, to whom music not only may become a means of livelihood, but is almost a very necessary of life. The senior pupils have entered on the study of the great composers, Handel, Haydn, Mozart and Mendelssohn; but, it is perhaps unnecessary to say, for the proper rendering of these masters a good instrument is indispensable.

The musical notation in point-characters devised by Mr. B. F. Cheesbro, our Professor of Music, has, during the year, been made the subject of class-drill, and several hundred copies of Psalm-tunes have been written by the pupils from the Teachers' dictation. By way of testing the value of this exercise on a recent public occasion, I handed to one of the pupils an unfamiliar Psalm-tune, written in point-characters. After examining the score with his fingers for a few minutes, the boy took his seat at an instrument and played off the air without hesitation. Thirty-six pupils received instrumental tuition on either piano or reed organ; and during the summer vacation, many of them identified themselves with the church choirs in their neighbourhood, assisting in the singing or playing the harmonium. The Institution Brass-band has now acquired a more than local reputation, and its services are in frequent request at church festivals, &c. The number of performers is eighteen. Nearly ninety pupils have received instruction in vocal music, though Mr. Cheesbro reports a great deficiency of such voices as would encourage us to spend much time on "part-singing." Throughout the various branches of music, the instruction imparted is strictly by note, and the vast majority of the pupils have acquired, in the Institution, their first acquaintance with musical notes.

#### THE INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

A considerable portion of my last Report was occupied with the perplexing question of the Industrial Training of the Blind, considered in relation to our own workshops. It is therefore unnecessary to do more here than report briefly the Statistics of this Department. The accommodation in the shop growing insufficient, I employed a carpenter to remove the number of partitions at the west-end of the ground-floor, so that the room was thus enlarged extends the whole length of the building, and accommodates twenty-two willow-workers. This complement is steadily maintained by drafting from the literary classes as vacancies occur in the workshop. The working-forms devised by Mr. Truss, the Trades Instructor, prove very serviceable for making willow-ware, otherwise beyond the reach of an average blind artisan. There is an unfortunate tendency among the shop-boys, whenever they acquire a slight (sometimes a very slight) knowledge of their trade to drift away and set up for themselves. Such boyish haste to be rich can only end in bitter disappointment, while discrediting the products of blind labour.

A large workroom in the east wing of the main building is now occupied for two hours daily by Mr. Truss for the instruction of boys and girls in the manufacture of cane-



bottomed chairs. Arrangements are in progress which I hope will keep these pupils supplied with material and work. For the year ending with September the general workshop account shows \$476 22 as the excess of sales over expenditure.

*Lighter Mechanical Employments.*—By your kind arrangement our pupils now knit the socks required for the Central Prison, Toronto, the material being supplied by the Prison authorities. Though this arrangement is of only a few months' standing, the pupils have already, under Miss Tyrrell's superintendence, knitted 262 pairs. I encourage both boys and girls to ply their knitting-needles while listening to the evening readings. It is to be hoped that the Government Institutions will supply sufficient work to keep our knitters fully employed. Bead work and Crocheting continue to form subjects of instruction in Miss Tyrrell's department. While visiting the United States Institutions I collected samples of work that appeared novel in design and graceful in execution, and our pupils have since reproduced these graceful novelties. The value of the bead and fancy work done during the year, under Miss Tyrrell's supervision, is estimated at \$450; the number of pupils under such instruction was 89. The sums realized by sales in this department are paid over to the several pupils employed.

#### RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

The clergy of Brantford continue to exhibit a deep interest in the Institution and the welfare of its inmates. Pupils of the various Protestant denominations are placed under the supervision of their respective ministers. Catholic pupils are visited and advised by the Rev. P. Bardou, who has always been a kind and active friend of the Institution. For the use of our Catholic inmates I have procured, in raised characters, "The Manual of Devotion for the Catholic Blind," and for pupils representing other churches, their various Church Catechisms, so far as these have been published.

#### VISITATION OF THE BLIND OF ONTARIO.

During the summer vacation of 1875, acting under your instructions, I resumed the official visitation of the youthful Blind of Ontario. By the kind co-operation of Dr. Hodgins, Deputy Superintendent of Education, and of the Public School Inspectors, I obtained some important information respecting Counties still unvisited. This information, with particulars derived from a great variety of other sources, I carefully tabulated, and with the aid of the excellent maps recently published by Messrs. Tackabury & Co., and by Messrs. Walker and Miles, the laborious task of exploration was lightened as far as the circumstances would permit. To Mr. William Raymond, one of our most intelligent senior pupils, I assigned the care of townships fringing the St. Lawrence, between the towns of Brockville and Cornwall. Mr. Raymond was spending the summer vacation with friends residing in these towns, and he kindly undertook the visitation of the Blind who live in the neighbourhood, or in the intervening townships. From the itinerary which, on his return, I compiled from Mr. Raymond's dictation, I find that he traversed a distance of 510 miles, much the greater part on foot. His work was most faithfully and accurately done. To Mr. T. M. Brown, whose services proved so valuable during the summer of 1874, I assigned the Counties bordering on the Ottawa, and the rear Townships of the Counties on the St. Lawrence. From Mr. Brown's itinerary I learn that he travelled a distance of nearly 2,000 miles; and that of this distance he performed nearly 800 miles on foot! On one occasion I have known him to walk 30 miles before breakfast in order to visit a blind child. An officer more thoroughly loyal to this Institution or more devoted to his work, I have never met. The visitation of the blind is not often an attractive employment, and it requires much tact and forbearance to conciliate persons who impugn your motives, and resent your visit as an impertinent intrusion, and even sometimes threaten you with personal violence. Such obstacles never for a moment diverted Mr. Brown from his benevolent work, but rather stimulated him to greater exertion. From point to point of his route, he minutely reported progress and received further instructions. The excessive distance traversed on foot indicated that he was overtaxing his strength. I repeatedly urged on him greater care of his health. The funds at my disposal finally proved insufficient for travelling conveyances, but Mr. Brown had too genuine a love of his work to stop because his money was spent. He returned to the Institution jaded and emaciated; and he was only two weeks engaged in the class-room when he fell an easy victim to typhoid

fever, which was prevailing in that portion of Brantford where he resided. A most impressive memorial sermon was delivered in the Brant Avenue Wesleyan Church, by the Rev. B. Keefer, whose ministrations Mr. Brown had attended. It would be difficult to over-estimate the value of such an officer to the public service of the Province; it is unfortunately too late to properly remunerate him; but something *can* be done for his widow and children.

The results of this summer's visitations are already seen among us in the presence of very many blind from Eastern Ontario. These new pupils had never been under instruction, and, until visited by Mr. Brown or Mr. Raymond, had, in most cases, never heard of the Ontario Institution for the Blind, or of its humane mission. A considerable tract of the Province remains still unexplored, and this ought to receive particular attention next summer.

The importance of training the blind at an early age is so great that the provision of law which now protects our seeing children in their education, ought, without delay, to be extended to blind children. Every argument that is valid for seeing children becomes an *a fortiori* argument for the blind. The Province has endowed from the public funds a special Institution for the Blind. Want of instruction renders blind children not only ignorant but imbecile; not only awkward but utterly helpless. Supplementary to such protection, we greatly require a statutory provision similar to one that I found in force at the Institutions in New York City and State. This provision (Laws of 1867, chapter 744, section 14,) enacts as follows:—

"If the friends of any pupil from within the State of New York shall fail, through neglect or inability, to provide the same with proper clothing or with funds to defray his or her necessary travelling expenses to and from the Institution, or to remove him or her therefrom, as required in the preceding section, the Trustees shall furnish such clothing, pay such travelling expenses, or remove such pupil to the care of the overseer of the poor of his or her township, and charge the cost of the same to the county to which the pupil belongs; provided that the annual amount of such expenditures on account of any one pupil shall not exceed sixty dollars. And in case of the death of any pupil at the Institution, whose remains shall not be removed or funeral expenses borne by the friends thereof, the Trustees shall defray the necessary burial expenses, and charge the same to his or her county as aforesaid."

#### THE INSTITUTION GROUNDS AND EXTERIOR PREMISES.

No appropriation having been made last year for the ornamentation of the grounds, I have directed my efforts towards getting the soil into good cultivation, and, at the same time, relieving the maintenance account of the charge for vegetables, and partially of the charge for feed and fodder. Notwithstanding the dryness of the spring and early summer—so trying to a sandy soil like ours—Mr. Stickley, the gardener, is able to report the following products of this season:—Potatoes, 706 bushels; Swede turnips, 400 bushels; white turnips, 74½ bushels; Aberdeen turnips, 50 bushels; white carrots, 236½ bushels; red carrots, 48 bushels; oats sufficient for two months' maintenance of Institution teams; green fodder sufficient for several months' maintenance of Institution cows; rye, 6 bushels; mangold wurzels, 179 bushels; red beet, 90 to 100 bushels; parsnips, 60 bushels; cauliflower, 130 heads; cabbage, over 2,000 heads; peas, 38 dozen; white beans, 8 bushels; yellow corn, 10 bushels; onions, 8 bushels; green peas, 7 bushels; tomatoes, 9 bushels; 60 citrons; 129 pumpkins; 302 cucumbers; besides a quantity of pot herbs, &c., &c. This return from ground which in this neighbourhood is proverbial for its barrenness, shows that while a portion of our grounds may very properly be devoted to landscape gardening, a considerable tract may very profitably be retained for the horticulture preferred by Dr. Johnson, with whom, of all flowers, the *cauliflower* was the favourite.

I would most respectfully press upon you the importance of completing the original design of the grounds so far as side-walks are concerned. This design provided for board-walks ten feet wide, following the curves of the carriage-road. If the means cannot be furnished for so wide a class of side-walks, there ought to be at least one of six feet plank provided. One of less width would be of slight service to the blind in taking that walking exercise from which they have hitherto been debarred. In order to take any pleasurable exercise, the blind require a surface free from inequalities and irregular boundaries. I hope that a liberal appropriation will be granted for this most necessary improvement, which ought to take

precedence of mere ornamentation, if appropriations for *both* cannot be had. Owing to the advantages of a healthy site, pure water, and to the vigilance and skill of our Institution physician, we have as a community enjoyed general health during the past year, but towards the close of the session the deficiency of proper exercise and the rise in atmospheric temperature produce such a degree of lassitude among our pupils that the usual class-room exercises proceed with difficulty. Many pupils anticipate the formal close of the session and return home, which has a most disheartening effect on both the Teachers and the pupils that remain. I am strongly of opinion that our session ought like that of the Batavia and other American Institution, to entirely exclude the heated season of the year. The change would apparently be slight, but the effect would in every sense be most healthful. If our session, like that of the Batavia Institution, had commenced on the second Wednesday of September, and closed on the third Wednesday of June, we should have escaped the epidemic of measles which the last few days of June, 1874, developed among us; we should have escaped the numerous petty ailments which the corresponding period of 1875 developed; we should also have escaped the suffocating temperature experienced during the first week of the present session, which fairly extinguished all energy.

In the medical service of the Institution, I have to acknowledge the unremitting attention of Dr. Corson, whose care and responsibility have increased in the same rapid ratio as the attendance of pupils. I am also under special obligations to Dr. Roseburgh, oculist, for his professional visits to the Institution, and for his extremely valuable services as Ophthalmic Surgeon to our pupils both here and at the Eye Infirmary, Toronto.

In the domestic department, Miss Elliott, recently appointed housekeeper, has effected important reforms, and, with competent and well-paid servants, the household management will maintain a proper degree of efficiency.

I have great pleasure in reporting that the Officers of the Institution now act in great harmony together, and that the general discipline is excellent.

#### GENERAL REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

The extreme severity of last winter very fully developed the weak points of the Institution, and taxed my ingenuity to the uttermost. On the 3rd of February commenced a term of cold weather which for intensity and steadiness is unexampled. One disaster after another occurred, but by keeping well up to our work, we fortunately had but one on hand at a time. The steam-heating in the west side of the building failed, and the pipes were frozen solid. Then the main smoke-stack became choked with falling rubbish, and, one night after the inmates had retired, we were forced to break through the solid brickwork, remove the obstructions, and rebuild before the usual hour for starting the furnaces. The main steam-pipe broke down and it was only by the use of powerful clamps and other appliances that the steam-heating was not interrupted in the depth of winter. Next, the pipes connected with the pumping-engine became frozen under 5 ft. of earth and our supply of water was threatened. Hardly was this difficulty rectified when the Institution was cut off from its gas-supply and left in darkness. But the worst disaster was yet to happen,—the well-embankment crumbled, and in spite of all attempts at repair, our water-supply failed. In this emergency I was fortunate enough to arrange a self-acting syphon of great length, capable of delivering 600 to 800 gallons of water per hour; and on this supply the Institution depended all the remainder of the winter. These accidents have all necessitated such repairs and alterations as will render their recurrence impossible; and though the expense has been trifling, the time and care required have been very considerable.

During the summer vacation I made such changes in the steam-heating of the west wing as will, I trust, completely secure us from the discomforts of last winter. The bleak passage leading out to the laundry and kitchen has been rendered comfortably warm by the erection of a steam-coil of inch and a half pipe. Many other improvements have been effected in the gas, steam, and water service, the labour employed being in all cases that of Institution employees.

As to repairs and appliances still required, I have had the honour to submit month by month special reports, and your own official inspection of the premises has been so thorough and exhaustive that any detailed enumeration must now be superfluous. You are aware how much our laundry and kitchen require proper machinery and appliances; that our tankage

---

and hose are quite insufficient to secure the Institution against an outbreak of fire ; that additional out-buildings and drainage are indispensable for health and convenience ; that we possess no vehicle in which we can with any comfort reach the town where we have constantly to do business, and from the business part of which we are separated by a mile and a half of generally bad, and sometimes impassable road. These and other requirements for which immediate provision is necessary have already received your attention, and become subjects of recommendation to the Government in your official minutes of inspection ; it remains for Parliament to do the rest.

My renewed acknowledgments are due to you, Sir, and Mr. Scoble, for the kind and prompt attention, that questions relating to this Institution have received at the Inspector's Office, notwithstanding the constantly increasing and almost overwhelming pressure of other official business.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. HOWARD HUNTER,

*Principal.*



## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To J. W. LANGMUIR, Esq.,  
*Inspector of Prisons, Asylums, &c.*

SIR,—In reviewing the labours of the past year, as the Medical Officer of this Institution, it is a satisfaction to find that important services have been rendered, as I believe, in my particular department. A list of the cases coming under my care, with the treatment and result, even if arranged in tabular form, would prolong this report to an undue length; suffice it to say, in general terms, that a large proportion of the pupils have been on the sick list at various times during the session.

As fair examples of the work accomplished, a few illustrative cases may be cited: Two adult pupils, the subjects of epilepsy, have had the intervals between the seizures greatly prolonged by the judicious use of bromide of potassium, with the happy effect of improving their mental as well as physical condition. In a few instances the sight of diseased eyes has been nearly restored, or very much improved, either as the result of treatment, or the skilful operations of Dr. Rosebrugh, the consulting oculist of the Institution. One of the lady teachers, the subject of a severe attack of erysipelas of the head and face, and in whom the delirium was quite violent, made a good recovery from the use of the tincture of the chlorido of iron, a careful sustaining of a weak heart with wine, and the application of evaporating lotions externally. A pupil suffering from chorea, or St. Vitus' dance, regained the control of his muscles, and was effectually cured by the administration of chalybiates with vegetable bitters, by showering the spine, by general friction of the body, and a generous diet.

I cannot confirm, in my experience, the remark made to me by the principal of a leading institution for the blind in the United States, that the blind do not bear medication well: on the contrary, they seem to me to require some assistance, usually of a tonic or supporting nature, to enable them to throw off disease, even in its milder forms. As an illustration of this fact, I may mention that during the past winter many of the pupils suffered from bronchitis, and though usually a self-limiting disease, yet in the case of these blind persons, there was generally required quinine, or a similar remedy, to cut short the attack.

Two deaths have occurred during the year, from causes in which our art unhappily could be of no avail, namely, that of Charles Carr, by drowning, the particulars of which have been already furnished to the Government; and that of Elgin Kemp, from heart disease, contracted during his absence at vacation. In the latter case, my attention was attracted to the boy by the loss of colour from his once ruddy face, and though he uttered no complaint, and regularly attended his classes, yet I was constrained to investigate the cause of his changed appearance, and upon careful examination there was discerned a loud murmur at the apex of the heart, revealing a breakage of the mitral valve. The fatal nature of his malady was communicated to the Principal, who excused him from further attention to his studies, and allowed him to remain in the Institution during the very cold weather, for the humane reason that the boy's home was not of the most comfortable description. The catastrophe of his death was precipitated sooner than was expected, however, and he died rather suddenly.

The general sanitary condition of the Institution may be stated as quite satisfactory, considering the means at our command to produce such a result. The most common cause of disease with us is cold—too low a temperature—especially in the dormitories, giving rise to the various inflammations of the air passages; but it is hoped the improvements lately made in the heating apparatus will effect a happy change in this particular.

---

Our next danger will be in the direction of over-crowding in the dormitories, with the increased number of pupils in attendance.

The food provided has always been abundant and wholesome, though sometimes faulty in its preparation ; a proper attention has been given to ventilation and cleanliness, and as far as possible the laws of health have been enforced, as part of the discipline of the school.

My thanks are again due to the Principal, for the intelligent efforts he has put forth to remove all causes of disease, and thus to preserve the health of those placed under his care.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM C. CORSON, M.D.







